

Gasconade County SWCD

October 2009

Volume 20, Issue 2

Information/Education Season was a huge success (despite the rain)

Family Conservation Tour! On September 10th the information/education season began. We began at the farm of Russell and Melody LaBoube. We had 43 landowners and children in attendance. The weather was perfect as we travelled the farm on three hay wagons. Russell explained his “old school” and “new school” watering systems and then we viewed how well the geo-fabric and geo-web was holding up in the areas that he had applied them. Many landowners were amazed at how well the erosion was being controlled and how the “mud holes” were no longer visible. After the farm tour, we traveled to the Bethany Church where the Gasconade County SWCD provided a pulled pork dinner with all the fixin's. Mark Brandt, NRCS, gave a brief overview of the new Conservation Stewardship Program, and Melinda Barch, NRCS, gave a presentation on “Forage Diversity”. While these presentations were going on, Diana Mayfield entertained the children with a “Soil Baby”——→



FFA AG Field Day! On September 23rd, another wonderfully dry day, four tri-county high schools converged on the Ben Branch Conservation Area bringing 85 students. The students rotated around the facility going to four main areas, with each student visiting 3 of the 4 sites. In the aquatics area, the students had hands on experience gathering macro-invertebrates and other critters from the lake. They were then assisted by Priscilla Stotts, MO DNR, and Elaine Callaway, MDC, with identification of the specimens. The next site that the students attended was the soils site. At this site the students were able to get down and dirty in the soils pit and the soil triangle. They watched a live demonstration of the soil probe and they received information on the soil monoliths and Indian artifacts. The Soils teaching team consisted of NRCS personnel - Mike Cook, Ralph Tucker, Grant Butler and Kary Wolf.

Continued on page 2



Russell LaBoube discusses the cover he made to keep birds out of his water tank.



Landowners give Russell their undivided attention.

The next site available for participation was the grassland site, where Theresa Cline and Donnie Nichols from MMN Hi-Lonesome presented the Prairie Wagon, which was planted with all of the local prairie grasses for identification. Kyle Lairmore assisted with the seed identification and the Area NRCS Engineering Team - Darryl Campbell, Wally Corey, and Dan Blockhold gave lessons on survey and GPS equipment. The last site available was the forestry division where students were given lessons in chainsaw safety, timber harvest management and tree identification. The forestry teaching team consisted of Aaron Holsapple, Mike Schulte, and Nathan Morfeld all of MDC.

After a wonderful meal of pork burgers, which was provided by the Gasconade, Maries, and Osage County SWCDs, there were demonstrations of electro-shocking the lake and the portable sawmill. Many students went away with fine specimens of cedar wood strips.

Wurdack Farm Bus Tour! Moving right along between the rains, we loaded the bus for the Wurdack Farm at Cook Station on October 2nd. Wurdack farm is owned by the University of Missouri and there are over 1200 acres that are used for research of one sort or another. We had 14 landowners and 2 staff attend this tour. We were welcomed to the farm with a steak sandwich dinner at the site of the old spring. Several of our participants won scotch pine trees and a chestnut tree. We then split up into two wagon groups and headed to the field to view the farm and have discussions with University of Missouri personnel in regards to production and experiments on the farm. They are currently experimenting with a grazing system that has a couple of paddocks that are planted to Bermuda grass and they are also experimenting with a scotch pine tree planting. It will be interesting to see how these turn out. We also learned a lot about dung beetles and how we can improve our beetle populations. This was our last bus tour and it was a rewarding one.

4th Grade Field Days! Our last event for the season was held at the Dennis & Brenda Kurrelmeyer farm on October 7 - 8. What a beautiful day we had on the first day. The Owensville kids were great and it was just right. They rotated through the usual sites for grasslands, baby animals, soils, farm safety, artifacts, aquatics, forestry and survey/GPS. There were some new faces and some old faces at the different sites. The cooks provided us with a great lunch and the Kurrelmeyer's treated everyone to ice cream at the end of the day. Unfortunately, the second day was a complete wash-out, literally. The rains came on Thursday and have stayed around ever since. We were unable to reschedule, however, the Hermann students did receive their gift bags full of valuable and fun information along with sodas and cookies the following week. I guess being this is the first time in 9 years we have been rained out - we are very fortunate!

Thanks to everyone for all their hard work and for all the donations that have been received towards making these events possible. (A list of donations and workers may be found within this publication!)



FFA students view the prairie wagon.

FFA students check out the soil triangle.

Thank You!

Thank you to the following volunteers and organizations for their donations of time, money, and food for our information/education activities!

Russell & Meloday Laboube	Ed & Margret Gabathueler	Bethany Church	Owensville Wal-mart
Cathy Mauzey	Mark Thornton	Teresea Cook	Doratheia Koepke
Nick Roberts	Cindy Haeffner	Cheryl Bohl	Shelley Lottmann
Russell Seifert	Sharon Borgmann	Dennis & Lois Shirk	Brenda & Dennis Kurrelmeyer
Tara Kopp	Judy Andrews	Lynn Candrl	Michelle Doss
Jim Meyer	Owensville VFW	Calvin's Distributing	Loutre's Market
Village Market	Owensville Lions Club	Community Bank	Kingsford Charcoal
Mace's Supermarket	Corner Market	Hermann Save-A-Lot	Owensville Save-A-Lot



Rob Pulliam and Kyle Lairmore talk about the Aquatics site with the Owensville Kids. This will be Rob's last year, as he is moving on to another office. Good Luck Rob!



MDC Forester, Mike Schulte talks to the kids about the different items we use every day that come from trees.

Contractors!

Mark your calendars.

January 12, 2010

**NRCS/SWCD
sponsored contractors
meeting.**

Watch your mail for your
invitation.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. CSP is a new voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. CSP provides opportunities to both recognize excellent stewards and deliver valuable new conservation.

This federal program is competitive and requires a 5 year contract. The sign-up period for this program is continuous, however, there will be different ranking periods in which participants are selected. The first ranking period has passed, and the next period should be some time in January, 2010.

If you are interested, please contact Mark Brandt at 573-437-3478 ext 3 and he will be happy to assist you.

FSA News

The 2010 fiscal year is now under way and FSA has some new programs that many producers may be interested in. Two of these new programs will be especially of interest to the livestock producers of Gasconade County. The first is the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Producers or contract growers who sustain livestock death losses due to adverse weather conditions may be eligible for a payment through the new LIP program. Producers are required to file a notice of loss within 30 days of the loss and will be required to provide verifiable evidence of the cause of death, such as veterinarian records or insurance records, and of their livestock inventory at the time of death. Eligible losses will be paid 75% of the fair market value of the livestock as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The second program is not a new one, but it does have some exciting changes. The 2008 Farm Bill added hay and biomass to the list of eligible commodities for the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program. The FSFL program is a low interest loan program to assist producers in financing the commodity storage needed for their operations. The interest rate is fixed for the loan term based on the rate in effect during the month the loan is initially approved. The October interest rate for loans under \$100,000 is 3.0%. The Gasconade County FSA is now accepting applications for Farm Storage Facility Loans for grain bins, hay barns, silos, flat storage, and cold storage for fruits and vegetables.

Please contact the Gasconade County FSA at (573)437-3478, ext. 2 with any questions or if you would like to file an application for one of our programs.

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 6, 2009. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.

Franklin County Women in Agriculture Meeting When: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 Location: Union High School, Union, MO Time: 5:30 p.m. Dinner and Registration: \$10.00

Guest speakers - **Mary Schroepfer** - "Who Wants to be a Master Food Preserver?" If you bring your pressure canner lid, it can be checked for proper pressure and safe food preservation.

Chris Chinn - Hogs Galore

Come browse and shop at the vendor booths prior to dinner at 6:15. Contact the Franklin County FSA Office for registration forms at 636-583-2303 ext 2.

*More information/education pictures may be seen on our website at
www.swcd.mo.gov/gasconade*

Gasconade County SWCD

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Dennis Berger - Member
Andy Read - Secretary

District Staff:
Diana Mayfield - District Manager
Terry DuBois - District Technician

NRCS Staff:
Melinda Barch - District Conservationist
Mark Brandt - Resource Conservationist
Kary Wolfe - Soil Conservationist
Russell Titus - Soil Conservationist

MDC STAFF:
Kyle Lairmore, Private Lands Conservationist
Reggie Bennett, Wildlife Biologist
Rob Pulliam, Fisheries Biologist
Aaron Holsapple - Forester

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-7328 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TTD).

Dates to Remember

November 1, 2009	Daylight Savings Time Begins
November 2, 2009	Board Meeting, USDA Service Center 7 p.m.
November 11, 2009	Veteran's Day, Office Closed
November 26, 2009	Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed
Nov 30 - Dec 3, 2009	Annual Training Conference, SWCD Staff out of office
December 3, 2009	Board Meeting/Christmas Dinner, Farm Bureau Mtg Room, 6 p.m.
December 25, 2009	Merry Christmas! Office Closed
January 1, 2010	Happy New Year! Office Closed
January 12, 2010	Tentative Contractor's Meeting
January 18, 2010	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Office Closed

Coming Soon!

2010 Farm & Conservation Fair
March 20, 2010
Hermann High School

Mark Your Calendars and watch for more
details in the next newsletter

Gasconade County SWCD Equipment

**LEASE AGREEMENT MUST BE ON
FILE AT THE SWCD OFFICE BEFORE
EQUIPMENT CAN BE RENTED.**

**Drill charge: Minimum charge of
\$90.00 for less than 10 acres usage.
An additional \$9.00 will be charged
for each additional acre under 50
acres. There will be an \$8.00 per
acre charge for 50 acres or more.**

For Scheduling of equipment, please call
the SWCD office at 573-437-3478 ext 3,
unless other wise indicated.

- ◇ John Deere 10 ft no-till drill is located at Raineri Transmission, 803 S. 6th Street (Hwy EE) Owensville. Call 573-437-8470.
- ◇ Great Plains 7 ft no-till drill with warm season box is located at the SWCD office.

Located at the SWCD Office:

- ◇ Rotowiper - \$25 a day
- ◇ Burn Equipment - \$50 deposit, \$10 use charge
- ◇ ATV Equipment (Seeder, Sprayer, Disk) - \$100 deposit, \$20 a day each piece or \$50 for all three
- ◇ ATV Warm Season Grass Seeder—no charge—Donated by Quail Unlimited
- ◇ Soil Probe - no charge